INFORMATION LETTER

Not for Publication — NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION — For Members Only

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Bean Canners May Use Term "Stringless" on Can Labels

An inquiry was recently received by the Association asking whether labels which might carry the word "stringless" between the words "green" and "beans" would be in actual violation of the recently promulgated standard of identity for green beans. In presenting this inquiry, it was called to attention that many canners have such labels in stock and replacement would occasion much hardship this season.

In discussing the matter with an official of the Food and Drug Administration, it was stated that this question had been raised from other sources and the Administration is inclined to look upon the term "stringless" as a varietal name where the beans in the container are actually stringless. Therefore it is safe to use labels of this nature provided there is no other deviation from the standard of identity as published.

Exports of foodstuffs from the United States during the first five months of 1947 maintained an average monthly rate of over $200,000,000 and amounted to $1,047,177,000, an increase of $49,311,000 over the corresponding period of 1946, the Office of International Trade, Department of Commerce, reported this week.

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An amendment to the Alaska fishing regulation with regard to closed seasons for shrimp fishing in Alaska was issued on July 29 by the Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Department of Interior. Official text of the amendment appears on pages 346 and 347.

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Reports received by the U. S. Department of Commerce indicate that Canada's 1946 canned fruit and vegetable pack is that Nation's largest on record. Canada's exports of canned foods also showed an 18 percent gain during 1946 over the preceding year. (Further details on page 346.)

May Use Some Canned Foods in Foreign Relief Program

Suggesting that a greater variety should be shown in the selection of foods to be sent abroad for relief purposes, the House Food Shortages Committee, under the Chairmanship of August H. Andresen, this week recommended that government agencies might curtail to some extent the almost exclusive exportation of grains "by exporting substantial quantities of other foods, in more plentiful supply, including surplus canned fruits and vegetables and frozen poultry now in storage stocks."

This recommendation was made in an interim report released by the Committee on July 21 and is based on the premise that although the United States is about to realize the largest wheat crop in history, should the Nation fail to produce a substantial corn crop, wheat that otherwise will be available for export to foreign countries will be needed for livestock feed to insure reasonable quantities of meat and dairy products for domestic consumption. In view of the critical corn crop situation, any curtailment in the export of wheat should be offset by the export of other foods in more (See *Canned Foods for Foreign Relief*, page 347)

N.C.A. Mobile Field Laboratories Complete Pea Survey

The Association's mobile field laboratories this week completed a six weeks' survey of the principal green pea canning areas of Illinois and Wisconsin. These surveys, which took the laboratories' staffs into a majority of the pea canneries in both States, comprise about one-half of the N.C.A.'s 1947 summer field laboratory work. The remainder of this season will be devoted to studies on corn canning in Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, Illinois, and Indiana, and to studies on tomato juice in Indiana. Temporary field headquarters for the two laboratory units when they commence the corn canning surveys within the next few weeks will be Rochelle, Ill., and Shelbyville, Ind. Complete details on these surveys will be published in a forthcoming issue of the INFORMATION LETTER.

Sugar Rationing Ended—Pricing and Inventory Controls Kept

All sugar rationing was terminated by the U. S. Department of Agriculture at 12 noon EDST, July 28. However, at the same time, all controls on sugar pricing were retained and new sugar inventory restrictions were instituted. Immediately upon receipt of this information at noon Monday (July 28), the Association

mailed a special bulletin to the entire N.C.A. membership notifying them of USDA's action. That portion of the special bulletin which quoted the official text of the USDA sugar decontrol action follows:

The U. S. Department of Agriculture announced today that industrial sugar rationing ends, 12 noon, EDST, July 28, 1947, as the result of a lack of funds to continue the program. This step eliminates all sugar rationing. However, price controls are retained and sugar inventory controls are instituted concurrently with the end of industrial rationing.

The end of all sugar rationing was announced today because Congress failed to appropriate the funds necessary to continue the work of the Sugar Rationing Administration, and therefore, that office is being liquidated immediately. Most of the employees of the Sugar Rationing Administration are being dismissed today without the usual 30-day notices of dismissal as sufficient funds have not been made available to continue paying their salaries for this period.

With the lifting of rationing controls all suspension orders relating to sugar are revoked. In addition, all suspension order proceedings now pending are terminated. Persons under subpoena or notice to appear in such proceedings are released from making their appearance. However, all records pertaining to sugar transactions must be kept for 30 days after this revocation.

Records in connection with price control on sugar must be kept, subject to examination by the USDA until October 31, 1948. The continuing work on sugar price and inventory controls will be handled under the direction of the Sugar Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, USDA. Pending correspondence on these discontinued program operations and on applications for adjustments or issuance of sugar bases will not be answered or acted on.

Briefly, the new sugar inventory controls provide: (1) a general limitation of sugar inventories for any person (other than household users) to a maximum of 2,000 pounds; (2) a limitation for any industrial or institutional user of 140 percent of the quantity used during the corresponding and next succeeding months of the year ended June 30, 1947; (3) a limitation for all wholesalers or retailers to quantities equal to those sold by them during the preceding calendar month; (4) in general, no limitation is made for primary distributors. However, if a primary distributor is also an industrial user, the limitation applicable to industrial users applies. Primary distributors include refiners and importers.

Statistics

Canadian Fruit and Vegetable Pack Is Largest on Record

Canada's 1946 commercial fruit and vegetable pack was the largest on record, with an aggregate value of more than $100,000,000, according to a report by the U. S. Department of Commerce.

The pack of peaches from the 1946 crop amounted to 1,061,074 cases, as compared with 484,750 cases in 1945. Other 1946 fruit packs (1945 in parentheses) were as follows (in cases): Apples, 443,526 (203,131); apple juice, 632,488 (154,107); apricots, 104,347 (32,137); blueberries, 12,129 (3,748); cherries, 163,225 (43,524); pears, 408,031 (286,297); plums, 688,088 (350,145); raspberries, 18,969 (19,201); strawberries, 8,040 (62); all other fruits, 175,795 (107,788).

Tomato juice and canned peas showed the largest volume increases of any of the vegetables packed. The 1946 pack of tomato juice totaled 4,262,175 cases, as compared with 2,413,407 cases in 1945. Canned peas amounted to 4,081,380 cases in 1946 as against 2,971,528 cases in 1945. Canned corn totaled 1,772,872 cases in 1946 as against 1,423,617 cases in the preceding year.

The pack of tomato paste and pulp showed an increase of more than 300 percent. There were substantial increases in all other vegetables packed, with the exception of carrots which totaled 276,090 cases in 1946, about half the 1945 pack.

Production of jams, jellies, marmalades, and frozen fruits in 1946 was well above the 1945 output, the report stated.

A total of 2,132,675 cases of canned fruits and vegetables was exported from the 1946 pack, a gain of about 18 percent as compared with 1945 exports.

Canned Poultry Statistics

The canning of poultry during June continued on a relatively small scale, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported this week. The quantity canned or used in canning during June totaled 6,167,000 pounds—42 percent less than the quantity canned in June last year and 57 percent less than the quantity canned in June, 1945. The quantity canned consisted of 5,941,000 pounds of chicken and 226,000 pounds of turkey.

The table below shows the quantity of poultry canned by years and months:

Canned Poultry Statistics

	1945	1946 [1]	1947 [2]
	Pounds	*Pounds*	*Pounds*
Jan.	15,343,000	13,369,000	9,458,000
Feb.	16,390,000	11,581,000	7,423,000
Mar.	18,746,000	11,402,000	6,148,000
April	18,392,000	10,118,000	7,675,000
May	20,011,000	11,573,000	5,333,000
June	14,401,000	10,687,000	6,167,000
July	7,764,000	8,464,000	.....
Aug.	8,034,000	10,978,000	.....
Sept.	4,759,000	7,583,000	.....
Oct.	5,815,000	10,855,000	.....
Nov.	8,972,000	9,682,000	.....
Dec.	7,960,000	8,905,000	.....
Total.	146,587,000	125,197,000	42,204,000

[1] Revised. [2] Preliminary.

Fisheries

Closed Seasons for Shrimp Fishing in Alaska Defined

An amendment to the Alaska fishing regulation with regard to closed seasons for shrimp fishing in Alaska was issued on July 29 by the Fish and Wildlife Service U. S. Department of Interior. Official text of the amendment follows:

Section 220.16 is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 220.16 *Closed seasons, shrimp fishing.* Commercial fishing for shrimp is prohibited in the periods from February 1 to April 15, from July 15 to July 31, and from August 16 to September 30, all dates inclusive, in the waters of the Stikine district, the Eastern district east of the longitude of Cape Fanshaw, and in the Sumner Strait district north of the latitude and east of the longitude of Point Baker, *Provided*, That if by reason of the continuing abundance of shrimp in these waters in excess of spawning requirements an additional take may be made in the period from August 16 to September 30, the facts as to the existence of shrimp in such abundance, and the extent of the additional take that may be made in excess of spawning requirements, shall be obtained and recorded by the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, or such other person as may be designated by the Secretary of the Interior, and in accordance therewith the limits of the period or periods during which such an additional take may be made from August 16 to September 30 shall be announced by either of them, which

announcement shall be final and reasonable notice thereof shall be made public in the Territory of Alaska. All waters of Duncan Canal are closed to shrimp fishing throughout the year.

Since the taking of shrimp will be prohibited after July 31, 1947, unless this amendment is made effective at once it has been determined that the amendment shall become effective upon publication in the *Federal Register*.

Alaska Salmon Pack Report

The following table, prepared from preliminary statistics compiled by the Fish and Wildlife Service, shows the pack of Alaska canned salmon, by regions, and varieties through July 19, 1947, as compared with a similar period in 1946:

Districts	July 19, 1947 *Cases*	July 20, 1946 *Cases*
Western Alaska	1,138,709	645,518
Central Alaska	658,051	354,691
Southeastern Alaska	19,510	67,617
Total	1,816,270	1,067,826
Species		
King	49,678	27,550
Red	1,457,262	822,037
Pink	195,282	67,042
Chum	91,988	135,552
Coho	22,060	15,645
Total	1,816,270	1,067,826

Meetings

Frozen Food Industry Forms National Frozen Food Group

Representatives of the frozen food industry met in Washington this week and formed the National Frozen Food Council, Inc., it was announced.

The new Council was formed to meet the need for a central agency to provide the entire frozen food industry with a permanent high level of universal user acceptance and preference for frozen foods. This aim is to be accomplished through a continuous program of education and promotion aimed at all users. The Council will also place considerable emphasis on the constant improvement of the quality of frozen food and the care in handling of such foods from the field to the ultimate user, it was stated.

Composing the nine-man governing board of the Council are representatives of the National Association of Frozen Food Packers, National Wholesale Frozen Food Distributors, and the National Food Brokers Association. In addition, chairs on the Council are being made available to representatives of such related industry groups as the retail distributors, refrigerated warehouses, transportation groups, machinery and equipment manufacturers, colleges and universities (agricultural departments) and others.

Pickle Packers to Meet

The annual fall meeting of the National Pickle Packers Association will be held on October 23 and 24 at the Continental Hotel in Chicago, Ill.

Forthcoming Meetings

August 4-29—Ohio State University, College of Agriculture, Third Frozen Food Locker Operators School, Columbus, Ohio.

October 6-7—Packaging Machinery Manufacturers Institute, 15th Annual Meeting, Hotel Sheraton, Springfield, Mass.

October 9, 10, 11—Florida Canners Association, Annual Meeting, Sheraton-Plaza Hotel, Daytona Beach, Florida.

October 23-24—National Pickle Packers Association, Fall Meeting, Continental Hotel, Chicago, Ill.

November 6-7—Ozark Canners Association, Fall Meeting, Connor Hotel, Joplin, Mo.

November 10-11—Wisconsin Canners Association, 43rd Annual Convention, Schroeder Hotel, Milwaukee, Wis.

November 10-12—Grocery Manufacturers of America, Inc., 39th Annual Meeting, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York, N. Y.

November 17-18—Pennsylvania Canners Association, 33rd Annual Meeting, Yorktowne Hotel, York, Pa.

November 20-21—Iowa-Nebraska Canners Association, Annual Convention, Savery Hotel, Des Moines, Iowa.

November 20-21—Indiana Canners Association, Fall Convention, Claypool Hotel, Indianapolis, Ind.

December 4-5—Tri-State Packers Association, Fall Convention, Traymore Hotel, Atlantic City, N. J.

December 9-10—Ohio Canners Association, Annual Convention, Deshler-Wallick Hotel, Columbus, Ohio.

December 11-12—Association of New York State Canners, Inc., 62nd Annual Meeting, Hotel Statler, Buffalo, N. Y.

January 7-9—Northwest Canners Association, Annual Meeting, Multnomah Hotel, Portland, Ore.

January 13-17—National Food Brokers Association, Annual Meeting, Atlantic City, N. J.

January 16-17—National Pickle Packers Association, Winter Meeting, New York, N. Y.

January 18-23—National Canners Association, Annual Convention (hotel to be announced), Atlantic City, N. J.

January 18-23—Canning Machinery & Supplies Association, Annual Exhibit, Convention Hall, Atlantic City, N. J.

January 19—National-American Wholesale Grocers Association, Annual Convention, Atlantic City, N. J.

March 15-18—National Association of Frozen Food Packers, Annual Convention, Chicago, Ill.

CANNED FOODS FOR FOREIGN RELIEF

(Concluded from page 345)

plentiful supply, the Committee reported.

In a brief discussion of canned fruits and vegetables, the Committee stated that reports indicate adequate supplies of all kinds of canned fruits and vegetables and in concluding the interim report the Committee pointed out:

"It appears that the over-all food supplies will be about the same as the supplies last year, and in most instances larger than in prewar years. The United States is not, however, the inexhaustible horn of plenty as many have assumed. The quantities of food available for the American public and the prices of such foods are and will be vitally affected by our food export program. A substantial part of our food supply is still in the process of being made on American farms. Weather and growing conditions for the next 90 days will have a material bearing upon the total amount of food that will be available for domestic and foreign consumption during the coming 12 months. Corn is the key product which will determine the supply of meat, poultry, and dairy products for American tables. It is again emphasized that the supply and cost of food to American consumers will depend upon the outcome of this year's production on American farms and the amount of food allotted for export to foreign countries."

Research

National Research Advisory Committee Recommendations

The National Advisory Committee established under the Research and Marketing Act of 1946 at a recent meeting with Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson and other Agriculture Department officials recommended that special stress be placed on increased marketing efficiency and wider utilization of farm products in the expenditure of the $9,000,000 appropriated by Congress to administer the programs under the Act for the 1947-48 year. The committee recommended also that a large share of the $9,000,000 be used to develop practical methods for marketing critical farm surpluses that may arise in the years ahead.

The recommendations followed the committee's review of research and service projects proposed under the Research and Marketing Act. Pointing out that stress on the marketing of critical surplus products is of continuing interest both to farmers and consumers, the committee recommended that besides the $2,000,000 specifically appropriated for marketing research and service, a reasonable part of the $1,500,000 provided under the Act for research in cooperation with the State Agricultural Experiment Stations be used for marketing research. In addition, the Act requires that at least $500,000 of the $2,500,000 appropriated for work in the experiment stations be used for marketing.

Among specific suggestions were studies in the cost of distribution of various commodities, development and expansion of markets, and research on new uses and by-products. The appropriation provides $3,000,000 for research in the utilization of farm products.

Foreign Trade

Embossed Cans for Belgium

A number of canned food exporters reported to the Association that they have been informed by their Belgian import agents that beginning September 1 Belgium will require all can containers to be embossed, in the tinplate of one end, the letters, four millimeters high, "Products of the United States of America." Up to now, Belgium has been accepting American labels with the simple addition of the stamp, "Made in USA."

While Commerce Department officials say they have received no notification from Belgium of the proposed change, they state that complaints have been received from northwest canners on the subject and are urging the U. S. Government to do something about it.

Labor

Off-the-Premises Cannery Warehouse Exemption Ends

Off-the-premises cannery warehouse exemption under the Fair Labor Standards Act have been terminated by the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions of the U. S. Department of Labor, the Association's Counsel was advised on July 25. Wage and Hour Administrator William R. McComb in a letter to Howard P. Castle of the Association's Counsel stated that "the implications of the Portal-to-Portal Act made it necessary for the Secretary of Labor . . . to make an immediate withdrawal of all orders and enforcement policies under which enforcement of the law was stayed for a variety of reasons." The canning industry had been exempt from the off-the-premises cannery warehouse restrictions since January 25, 1943.

Deaths

Death Takes Robert T. Poor

Robert T. Poor, 62, secretary-treasurer of the Canner Publishing Co., died July 17, at a Chicago, Illinois, hospital as a result of an operation. Mr. Poor was well known to the canning industry because of his many years of affiliation with *The Canner* and for his frequent appearances at State and national canner association meetings.

Chilean Citrus Production

The output of oranges in Chile in the 1946-47 season is expected to reach 500,000 boxes (200 oranges each), the same as the preceding season's estimate, the U. S. Department of Commerce reported this week.

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August 1, 1947

S-P-E-C-I-A-L I-N-F-O-R-M-A-T-I-O-N L-E-T-T-E-R B-U-L-L-E-T-I-N

BLIGHT WARNING TO EASTERN TOMATO CANNERS

Late tomato blight reached epidemic proportions in spite of the hot weather this week on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, Southern part of Eastern Shore of Maryland, Western Maryland, Delaware, Southern Pennsylvania, and Central New Jersey.

Fields which have been sprayed or dusted with fungicides are largely free of the disease. Those fields which have not been treated are in bad condition. Canners are advised in these areas to contact their growers immediately and attempt to persuade them to concentrate on covering their acreage with some of the copper compounds which have been recommended by their State plant pathologists.

Those fields on which the blight is already on the leaves but not on the fruit should be treated because if the blight is not covering all of the fruit it can be stopped from spreading to the future crop if treated immediately.

The Association will continue to keep canners informed of the tomato blight situation.

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